

CLERK: Mr. President, 225 was a bill introduced by Senators Ashford, McFarland, Johnson and Abboud. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 13 of this year, referred to the Judiciary Committee for hearing, advanced to General File. There are Judiciary Committee amendments pending.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Ashford. I'm sorry. Senator Chizek with the committee amendments. Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. President, LB 225 itself addresses a short, informal, nonbinding trial. It would be conducted with the hope that it would lead to settlement after the parties receive the unbiased verdict. Senator Ashford will explain 225 itself. But the committee amendments, on line 1 and 2 of the committee amendments, allows each side two, instead of one, peremptory challenge. It was felt by the committee that this change would allow for more participation by the parties in selecting the jury, hence that would give more confidence in the jury's recommendation. Except for the peremptory challenges, the jury selection is handled entirely by the judge. Peremptory challenges are not for cause or bias, but at the total whim of the party making it. Line 3 through 6 of the committee amendments allows the judge and the juror more latitude in how specific the verdict forms will be, based upon how complicated each case might be. In lines 7 through 11 of the committee amendments prohibits the use of any admission against interest by one party. The verdict itself, or any other information developed that it would be used at a subsequent formal proceeding, based solely on the fact it was admitted or rendered during the trial summary. I would move for adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR HEFNER PRESIDING

SENATOR HEFNER: Is there anybody else that would like to speak on the amendment? All those that favor the committee amendment will vote aye, and those opposed will vote nay. Has everybody voted? Record.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR HEFNER: The committee amendment carried. Now, to the bill. LB 225. Senator Ashford, are you going to handle it?